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150 Totally Terrific Writing Prompts

Lively, Fun Prompts to Motivate Every Writer in Your Class

by Justin Martin



Dream Diary

Ever ride a purple spotted hippo? Maybe in your dreams! What's the coolest dream you ever had? Describe what happened.

Everything Is Coming Up Nines

Complete this tale about nines. Nine brothers and nine sisters lived in a nine-story house on 9th Avenue. One morning at 9 o'clock they...

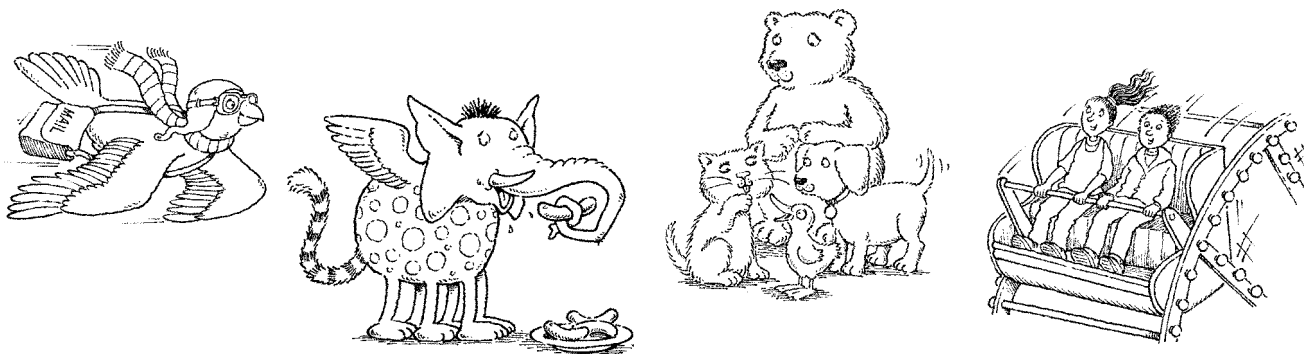
Famous Firsts

January is the first month of the year. The letter "A" is the first letter of the alphabet. George Washington was the first president. Make a list of 10 more famous firsts.



Folktale Fan Letter

Who's your favorite folktale character: Little Red Riding Hood, the Gingerbread Man, one of the little three little pigs? Write that character a letter.



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S C H O L A S T I C
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MEXICO CITY • NEW DELHI • HONG KONG

DEDICATION

*To Mom & Dad,
who gave my story its start.*



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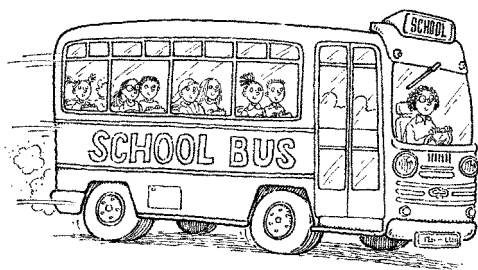


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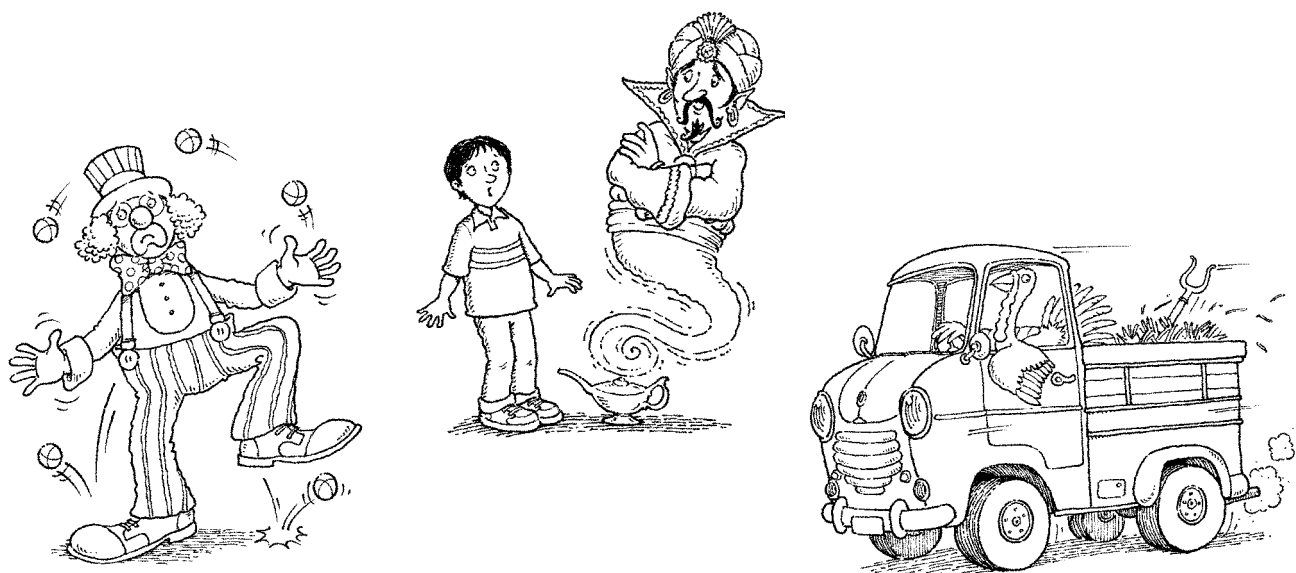


Introduction

Writing can be one of life's most rewarding activities. Writing can also be tough. For starters, where do you start? Staring at a blank piece of paper or an empty computer screen can frustrate even the most gifted and experienced writer. But get a couple of sentences down and pretty soon confidence blooms, imagination kicks in, and writing can become as natural as breathing.

That's the purpose of the writing prompts contained within this book. They're meant to help kids get those creative juices flowing. Some of the prompts provide the beginnings of stories that your students will want to finish. There are also prompts to encourage kids to make top-10 lists, as well as write greeting cards, e-mails, rap songs, and advertising jingles.

The prompts are organized by the 10 months of the school year, September through June. Many of them relate to either holidays or the anniversaries of famous events that occur during those particular months. But sprinkled throughout the book are also plenty of random prompts, encouraging kids to do everything from write about clouds to keep a diary. Happy writing!



September



Summer Bests

Summer has just ended and it's back-to-school time. How about making a list of "Summer Bests" so you can remember all the fun you had. What was this past summer's best food, best piece of clothing, best song, best movie, best place you visited? Write down your answers for each of these Summer Bests, and see if you can think of five others besides.



Great New Invention

Inventions make life easier. Just think about a few of them: computers, telephones, light bulbs, chewing gum. Write about something you would invent and how it would make the world a better place.



Back to School

It's a new school year. You're beginning a new grade. What are your goals for this year? Maybe you want to get better at math or perhaps you want to learn how to play hopscotch during recess. Write down three goals for this school year.



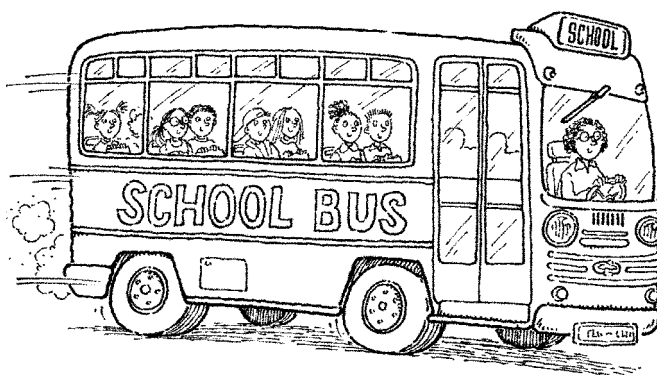
When I Grow Up...

The first Monday in September is a holiday called Labor Day. Labor Day celebrates all the various jobs people do, such as police officer, teacher, doctor, lion tamer. Write about what you would like to be when you grow up.

5

Terrible Trade

Tim offered to trade his brand-new bike to Gary for one measly piece of bubble gum. But Gary could tell that Tim didn't really want to trade his bike. Tim was just trying to make friends with Gary. What happened next? Finish this story.



6

Grandparents' Greeting Card

Did you know that the week starting September 7 is National Grandparents' Week? This is a good time for kids to let their grandparents know how they feel about them. Create a special "Happy Grandparents' Week" greeting card.

7

Everything's Coming Up Nines

September is the ninth month of the year. Complete this tale about nines. Nine brothers and nine sisters lived in a nine-story house. One day, on September 9, 1999, they _____.

8

A Trip Down Memory Lane

Remember coming to school this morning? Maybe you walked or maybe you took the bus. But however you came to school, you must have passed all sorts of things on the way: dogs, houses, cars, signs. Think hard, and write about your trip to school in as much detail as you can remember.

9

The Adventures of Super Squirrel

On September 19, 1928, the first Mickey Mouse cartoon was shown at a theater in New York City. Think up your own cartoon character. For example, it could be "Ultra Duck" or "Power Penguin." Now, write a story about your cartoon character.

10

Fall Checklist

Make a list of words associated with fall. For example, “yellow” could be a word on the checklist because tree leaves turn yellow at this time of year. Now, try to write down as many autumn words as possible.

11

Second-Grade Super Stars

You and several of your good friends have formed a band called _____. You play _____ (style) music. You become very famous and have lots of screaming fans. Now, finish the story.

12

Dear Diary...

September 22 is officially known as Dear Diary Day. Create a diary entry for today. Think of an event that happened today and describe how you feel about it.

13

Zoo Zoom

Find a picture of an animal that you like. It can be in a book or magazine. It can be on the classroom wall. Concentrate hard, and describe your animal in as much detail as possible.



14

The Greatest Movie in the World Ever

What’s a movie that you wish existed? For example, would you like to see a movie about a girl who befriends a pink and green zebra? What about a boy who can fly just by saying, “Wacka Wicka Tip Top Tap”? Write about an imaginary movie that you would like to see.

15

Season Review

You’ve seen reviews of books and movies. How about a review of the season fall? Do you like seeing the leaves turn red and yellow? Or, maybe you find fall a bit boring. Pretend you’re a critic and write about what you like or don’t like about the season.

October

16

P Is for Pumpkin

October is a big month for pumpkins. And the letter “p” is an important letter in the word pumpkin. Notice there are two “ps” in pumpkin. Now, write a pumpkin story using as many “ps” as possible. This will help you get started: Peter Pickle loved pumpkin pie. He owned a pink parakeet named Petunia and _____.

17

My Little Instruction Book

Instructions tell us how to do something correctly. There are instructions for just about everything: how to put together a bike, how to work a computer, how to play basketball. Think of something that you’re good at. Then, write down instructions so that someone else can learn how to do it, too.

18

Fighting Fire

Fire Prevention Week is celebrated at the beginning of October. What are some important things people need to know about preventing fires? Write down the information you would include if you were designing a poster about fire prevention.

19

An Adventure

October 12 is Columbus Day, in honor of Christopher Columbus, who arrived on an island in the Bahamas on October 12, 1492, after sailing from Spain. Columbus was a famous explorer. What if you were an explorer? Where would you travel—to deep jungles, high into the mountains, or would you go to Mars? Pretend you’re keeping a travel log and write down one of your adventures.

20

Four-Legged Folks

What if people had four legs? It would be just two extra legs. Still, a whole lot would change, right? For instance, everyone would need to wear two pairs of shoes. Write about all the ways the world would be different if people had four legs.

21

Ghost Story

With Halloween coming soon, one of the best kinds of stories is a ghost story. It's actually kind of fun to be scared, right? And it's really fun to write a good scary story, with ghosts and haunted castles and all that spooky stuff. Now, write one that will make your classmates' teeth chatter and spines tingle!

22

Dictionary Day

On October 16, 1758, Noah Webster was born. He's famous for creating a dictionary. A dictionary is a useful guidebook, full of the meanings of thousands and thousands of words. Now, pick one interesting word that you know. Write down its meaning, just like a dictionary. Then, check a dictionary and write down the word's official meaning.



23

Message in a Bottle

Sometimes people write a message, put it in a bottle, and float it out into the ocean. They don't know who will get the message, or when they'll get it. Sometimes no one gets the message for many years. What would you write in a message in a bottle?

24

This Week's Specials

The third week of October is National School Lunch Week. What if you were able to plan all the lunches at your school for an entire week? What would you serve each day, Monday through Friday. Create a menu with your daily specials.

25

A Familiar Tale

Did your parents or grandparents ever tell you any stories about when they were little kids? Try to remember one. Then, write it down so that you can tell your own kids this story in the future.

26

Rain Forest Research

All sorts of creatures—frogs and butterflies and bright-colored birds—make their homes in the rain forest. But these animals' homes are in danger because of pollution and because people cut down trees in the rain forests. Wouldn't it be interesting to learn more about this important problem? Do some research and write down five facts about rain forests.

27

Color Me Cool

Two colors that are truly Halloween colors are orange and black. Orange is the color of pumpkins. Black is the color of night, bats, and witches' hats. But which colors fit *your* personality? Pick two colors and write about why you chose them.

28

Morning Routine

Every morning you probably do very similar things. That's called your morning routine. First, maybe the alarm clock rings. Then, maybe you eat breakfast. Next you may brush your teeth. What's your morning routine? Describe it in as much detail as possible.



29

Haunted House

Describe the greatest haunted house you can possibly imagine. Would it have a creaking front door? Would it have bats inside? Would there be a ghost in the attic? Think about it. Think about it until even you get the chills. Then, write down a description.

30

Ghoulish Greeting

Today, October 31, is Halloween. But how come people rarely exchange Halloween cards? That would be kind of fun, right? So why not create your own Halloween card. You might include a spooky message such as, "On this special day, may you eat lots of cow eyeballs and get bats caught in your hair." Happy Halloween!

November

31

N-O-V-E-M-B-E-R

Write an acrostic poem for the word “November.” As an example, here’s an acrostic for the month of May: M = Many blossoms, A = Awesome weather, Y = Yeah! But “November” is much longer than “May.” It’s eight letters long. Now, write an acrostic poem choosing words that start with each letter in “November.”

32

Kiddy Campaign

Election Day is held in early November. This is when citizens vote for President, members of Congress, and other leaders. Pretend you are running for the job of mayor in your town. Write a speech which explains how you will make your town or city better when you are elected.

33

Tall Tale

A tall tale is a story that’s just too ridiculous to be true. Say somebody tells you that a giant octopus came out of the bathtub and stole her toothbrush. Now that’s a tall tale! Come up with your own tall tale. Make it as weird and crazy as you possibly can. Then, share it with a friend.

34

X-ray Vision

On November 8, 1895, the x-ray was invented. It allows doctors to see the bones inside of people’s bodies. You can also use an x-ray to check inside of a suitcase or most anything else. Pretend you have your own personal x-ray machine. You have five big boxes to look inside. Describe what you see.

35

Turned-Around Tale

Have you ever rewind a videocassette and noticed how funny everything looks going backward? Viewed in reverse, people who are eating, for example, take food out of their mouths and put it back on their plates. Think about your day yesterday, and try to describe it backward. Start with the end of the day and end with the beginning. Told backwards, for example, you went to sleep, then you did your homework, then you ate dinner, and so on. Luck Good!

36

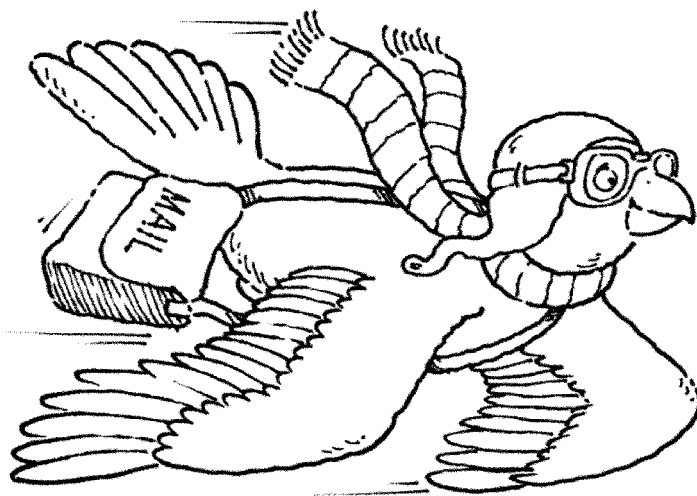
My Dislikes

What are some things you just don't like? Maybe you don't like broccoli, or maybe you don't like Mondays. Now's your chance to make a list of your ten biggest dislikes.

37

Kid TV

The first episode of *Sesame Street* was shown on TV on November 10, 1969. *Sesame Street* is a very famous kids' show. It has memorable characters such as Big Bird, Cookie Monster, and Bert and Ernie. Make up your own TV show for kids with its own great cast of characters. Describe the first episode.



38

Pigeon Mail

On November 18, 1870, people in England started using specially trained pigeons to deliver letters to France. Think of this as an old-fashioned type of airmail! Pretend it's the old days. You live in England, and you have a friend named Marie who lives in France. What would you like to ask Marie about France? Write a letter that could be sent by pigeon mail.

39

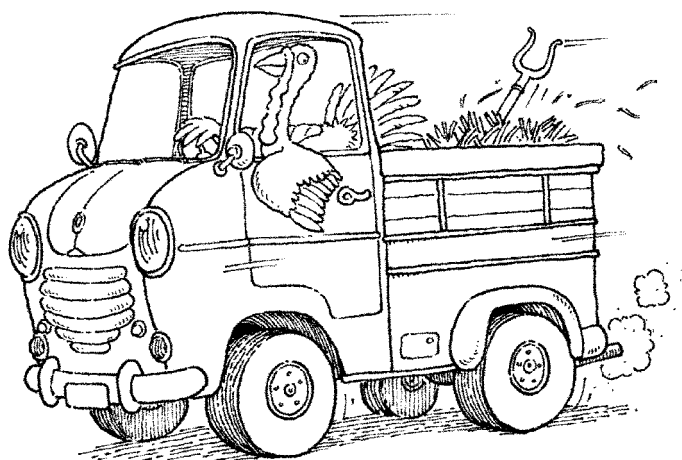
MicroFast Super Processor 6000

What's something you wish computers could do? Maybe you would like to invent a computer that could tie your shoes or do your homework for you. Give your computer a name like "MicroFast Super Processor 6000." Write about how it works and what it can do.

40

Turkey Tale

More than anything else in the world, Tom Turkey wanted to learn to drive. "Driving is cool," he'd say, "Gobble, gobble, gobble." But nobody believed a turkey could drive. Then one day, Farmer Sue left her old truck in the driveway with the engine running. Tom Turkey jumped into the truck and _____.



41

I Took a Wrong Turn at Mars

Some friendly space aliens are coming to visit. They need your entire address. For instance, if you lived on Cherry Street in Houston, Texas, that would not be enough. You need to tell them United States, North America, the Earth, the Universe. Write out your whole address, so the aliens can find you. You might also give some helpful tips, such as, "Avoid flying into the sun."

42

The First Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is coming soon. The first Thanksgiving happened in 1621 when the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians shared a meal. Do some research and write about what happened during this memorable event.

43

What I Ate . . .

Did you celebrate Thanksgiving? Did you eat a whole lot? What was your favorite food during the meal? Describe what it tasted like in such careful detail that it makes your mouth start to water.

44

Patriot Songs

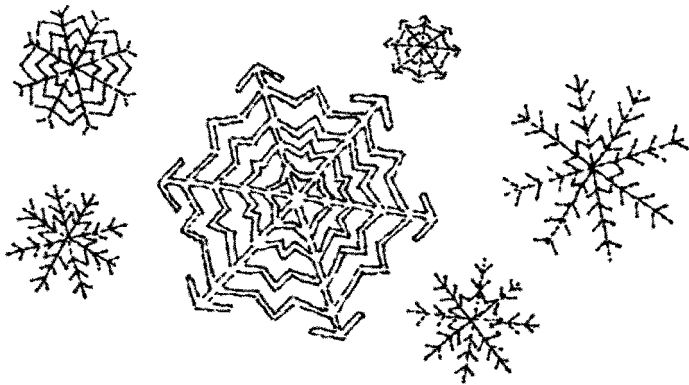
On November 11, 1938, the song "God Bless America" was performed for the first time. A song that celebrates a country is called a patriotic song. Write your own patriotic song about America.

45

Thanksgiving Thank You

We celebrate Thanksgiving because the pilgrims were thankful for the harvest and for their health. Start with the phrase, "I am thankful for . . ." Then, make a list of ten things for which you are thankful.

December



46

Snowflakes

Scientists have looked at snowflakes under microscopes. They have discovered that no two snowflakes are exactly alike. Every snowflake is a little different in shape from every other one. If you think about it, people are kind of the same way. Every person is different. Some are tall, some short. Some have blue eyes, some brown. Some are good at sports and some prefer computers. Write about some special ways in which you are different from everyone else.

47

Encyclopedia

Have you ever used an encyclopedia? It's a set of books that's in alphabetical order. It provides helpful information on everything from aardvarks to zucchinis. Think about something you have information about. It can be almost anything: telephones, doll houses, pizza. Now, write an encyclopedia entry for the item you choose. If the whole class puts its entries together, you'll have the beginnings of an encyclopedia.

48

Dream Diary

Dreams can be weird. They're actually stories, if you think about them. But they're all strange and jumbled up. They're hard to remember, too. What's the best dream you ever had? Think hard and write down what you can recall.

49

Number One Record

On December 6, 1877, Thomas Edison made the first sound recording ever. This was more than 100 years before CDs were invented. He chose to record the song "Mary Had a Little Lamb." What if you had the chance to make the first sound recording ever? What song would you choose and why?

50

Pat the Penguin

Penguins love wintry weather. Pretend you've made a new friend, Pat the Penguin. What would you and Pat do together? Maybe you could go sledding. Maybe you could go to an ice hockey game. Write a story about your adventures with Pat the Penguin.



51

Holiday Greeting Card

December is a time when we celebrate some important holidays, such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and sometimes Ramadan. Which holiday do you celebrate? Create a greeting card with special wishes for the holiday you choose.

52

The Joker

Here's a joke: What did Delaware? Her New Jersey. Get it? Now make up your own joke. Write it down. Pass it on.

53

www.goodkid.com

December is a month when you might get lots of presents. But in order to get presents, you may have to prove that you've been a good kid all year. Pretend there is a new Internet site called www.goodkid.com. Create an e-mail in which you describe your behavior during the year.

54

Snowmonkeys

Building snowmen is pretty cool. But why just stick to snowmen? How about snowwomen, snowcastles, snowburgers, or snowmonkeys? Make a list of 10 things you would like to build out of snow. Write a story featuring one of your snow creations.



55

Cranky the Clown

No matter how hard he tried, Cranky the Clown could not make people at the circus laugh. Other clowns smiled, but he'd frown. He'd try to juggle, but all his balls would fall to the ground. Then one day he had an idea that would make people laugh. Describe what Cranky the Clown did to make people laugh.

56

Color Jumble

Snow is white. That's just a plain fact. The sun is yellow and the sky is blue. But what if everything were all mixed up? Just imagine if snow were purple. What if the sun was pink? Write about a jumbled-up world where everything is a color different from the real world.

57

Winter Log

The official first day of winter is December 21. But maybe winter has arrived before December 21 where you live. Has it already turned colder? Do you have to wear a heavy coat? Has it snowed yet? Create a special winter log. Write down any wintry changes you've noticed in the past few days.

58

Icky Gift

What if someone gave you an icky gift, one that you just didn't like a bit? Let's say you wanted the Ultra Super Deluxe Turbo Action Dillyhoo. But instead you received a tan leather belt. Write about what you might say to the gift-giver and what you might do.



Just Write It!

Writing is hard work. But sometimes it's easier if you don't try so hard. You may come up with surprising and interesting stuff if you just write whatever comes into your mind. This can be a fun exercise. Spend three minutes writing down whatever pops into your head.



Time Capsule

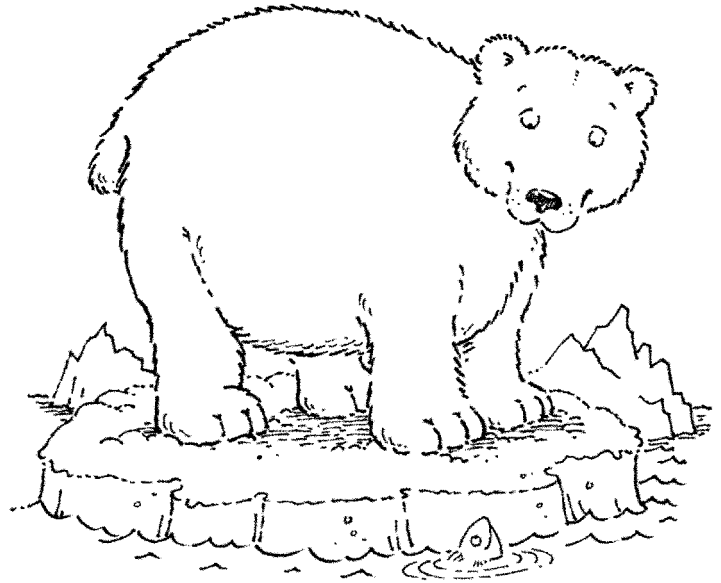
A year is a long time. The last day of our official year is December 31. Just think about all that's happened during this particular year. At some point in the future you will want to remember these things clearly. So, create a time capsule listing all the interesting and exciting things that happened this year.

January

61

New Year's Resolutions

January 1 marks the beginning of the official new year. People often make New Year's Resolutions, in which they promise to behave better in the coming year. Perhaps you would always like to finish your homework early. Maybe you want to stop eating so much candy. Come up with several New Year's Resolutions and write them down.



62

Feeling Just Ducky

What's your favorite animal? Think about what it's like to actually be that animal. What would it be like to eat what that animal eats, sleep where that animal sleeps? What would that animal do for fun? Write a story from the point of view of your favorite animal.

63

I'll Ask Ya About Alaska

On January 3, 1959, Alaska became the 49th U.S. state. What kind of questions do you have for kids who live in Alaska? "What do you do for fun?" "Have you ever seen a polar bear?" Write a letter to an imaginary friend in Alaska asking all about life in the state.

64

Famous Firsts

January is the first month of the year. George Washington was the first President of the United States. The letter “a” is the first letter of the alphabet. Now, come up with a list of 10 other famous firsts.



65

Caving in to Curiosity

The sign said: “Don’t Go in the Cave.” That made Trevor Willis curious about the cave. In fact, over time Trevor grew really, really curious about what was in that cave. One day, Trevor went inside and _____.

66

January and July Chat

Pretend that January sent an e-mail message to July. It might read: “It’s very cold here. Icicles are hanging from trees. Kids are making snowpeople.” What would July write in an e-mail back to January?

67

Kid Prez

You’ve just been elected the youngest President of the United States. First, you declare August 1 as National Ice Cream Day. Write down 10 other laws that you would pass.

68

Super Duper Bowl

The Super Bowl is always played in January. It’s a contest between the two best professional U.S. football teams. Why not make up your own Super Bowl? And why not call it the Super Duper Bowl? It can be a contest between two dirt bikes, or a race between two pet turtles. Pretend you’re a sportswriter, and describe your own personal Super Duper Bowl.

69

Some Like It Hot . . .

Some kids like warm summer weather best. You can swim and wear T-shirts. Other kids prefer winter weather. They like to ice skate or throw snowballs. Which weather do you prefer, hot or cold? Explain why.



Puppy Problem

A puppy followed Jenny Gould home. She loved it very much. But after a few days, she saw a sign that said, "Lost Puppy." So, Jenny _____.



There's Gumballs in Them Thar Hills

The Gold Rush began in California on January 24, 1848. People poured into the state hoping to get rich by finding gold. But in modern times it might be exciting to discover something different. How about the Great Tennessee Beanie Baby Rush or the New Jersey Gumball Rush. Think of a new type of "rush," and write a story about it.



Mmm...Bookle

What's your favorite food? Do you like pizza, chocolate, or cheeseburgers? Now, pretend that there's a brand-new food called "bookle." It's the best stuff you've ever tasted, better than anything else in the whole world. But how can you describe it to a friend? Is it sweet or sour? Is it hard or soft? Describe "bookle," and explain what it's like to eat.



Rappin' Ray's Real Cool Show

January 29 is the birthday of talk-show host Oprah Winfrey. What if you had your own talk show? Give your talk show a name. Make a list of the top-10 guests you would invite to appear on your show.



Fairy Tale Fan Letter

Who's your favorite character from a familiar story? Do you like Cinderella, Pinocchio, or maybe Goldilocks? Write a letter to your favorite character. Tell the character what you like about him or her. Maybe offer some advice on how the character might avoid getting into trouble. For example, "Goldilocks, don't eat that porridge!"



A Brief History of January

January 31 is the last day of the month. A lot has happened since the first day of the month. Write a history explaining all the different events that happened in your own life and in the news during January of this year.

February



76

Groundhog Day

February 2 is Groundhog Day. There's a groundhog named Phil who lives in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. People rely on him to predict the weather. If Phil sees his shadow on Groundhog Day, there will be six more weeks of winter. Make your own Groundhog Day prediction. Can you see your shadow when you go outside? How much longer will winter last?

77

Excuses, Excuses

Your parents want you to do some work around the house. You don't want to, so you make up the craziest excuse you possibly can. Maybe something like, "I'm sorry, but it's Saturday. On Saturdays, as you know, a little pink man from Venus always visits and we go bowling together. I can't possibly do chores today." Now, make up and write down *your* own silly excuse.

78

Mushy Wushy

Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14. Sometimes people send really mushy love letters like this one: "Dear Fuzzy Wuzzy, I love you so much. You're my cupcake. You're my little dumpling." Finish this mushy wushy love letter and make it as sicky icky as you possibly can.

79

All Is Forgiven

The second week of February is National Forgiveness Week. Pretend that somebody hurt your feelings by forgetting to invite you to a party. Write a letter in which you forgive them.

80

One Hundred Years Ago

What if you lived 100 years ago? You wouldn't have a TV set or a car. You couldn't fly in an airplane or play CDs. What would you do for fun? How would you get to school? What would your life as a kid be like if you had lived 100 years ago?

81

Singing Telegram

On February 10, 1933, the first singing telegram was delivered. A singing telegram is a kind of message or greeting that is sung instead of read. Here's an example: "Have a Happy Monday. This should be a fun day. I know your name is not Ray." Write four more lines to finish this wacky singing telegram.



82

Wild Ride

February 14 is also Ferris Wheel Day. On this day in 1859, George Washington Ferris was born. He invented the Ferris wheel. Think of an amusement park ride you would like to invent. Would it spin? Would it go upside down? Give your ride a crazy name, too, like Scream-O-Rama.

83

All-Time Greatest Sports Figure

Babe Ruth was born on February 6, 1895. He was a famous baseball player. In fact, some people think he was the greatest sports figure to ever live. Do you agree? Maybe you think that Michael Jordan or Tara Lipinski is the greatest ever. Write about the person you think deserves the title "All-Time Greatest Sports Figure," and tell why.



Earrings-Я'-US

What if you owned your own store? What would you sell? Would you sell jewelry or music CDs or candy? And what would you call the place? Write about your own special store.



Switched!

What if you switched places with your parents? Now they're the kids, and you are a parent. What would that be like? What would you do? Write about it.



Presidents' Day

The third Monday in February is Presidents' Day. It is when we celebrate the birthdays of two American Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Write a short essay about why these two Presidents are great.



Fashion Show

Levi Strauss, the inventor of blue jeans, was born on February 26, 1829. What if you invented a type of clothing? What would it look like? Would it have special uses such as keeping people warm or dry?



Slang Dictionary

A slang word is a word that has its own special cool meaning. In fact, even the word "cool" is slang. In one way, "cool" means "cold." But you probably use the word "cool" to mean that something is "good." Invent 10 of your own slang words, and write down what each means.



Always Wrong Willie

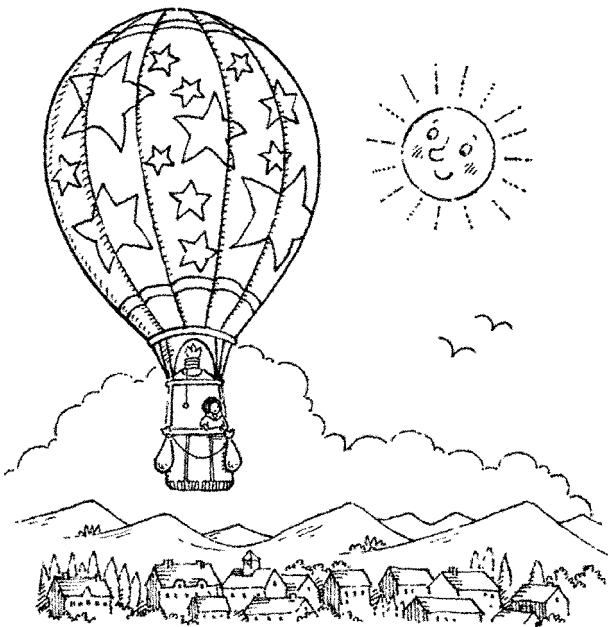
Always Wrong Willie was quite simply always wrong. He'd take the wrong bus to the wrong school. He'd have his pants on backward. The teacher would ask him the first letter of the alphabet, and he'd answer "z." At recess he'd play football with a basketball and his shoes would be on the wrong feet. Write a story about Always Wrong Willie.



February Bonus

February is the shortest month of the year. It usually has only 28 days. In a leap year—every four years—it has 29 days. But months such as April and November have 30 days. August and December have 31. Pretend February has two extra days added, but they are days off. You wouldn't have to go to school or do any kind of chores, either. What would you do?

March



91

Up, Up, and Away

Imagine taking a trip high above your town or city in a hot air balloon. What could you see? How would people and parks and buildings and swimming pools look different if you were viewing them from way up in the sky? Write about what your town or city would look like when seen from a hot-air balloon.

92

Object Lesson

Think about something you see every single day. It can be just about anything: a tree in your front yard or the family car. Try to describe it without using the name of the object. For example, if you picked the family car, you could write, "It has wheels. It is red." But make sure you don't use the word "car." Now, think of your object and describe it in as much detail as possible. Trade your description with a classmate, and see if he or she can guess what the object is.

93

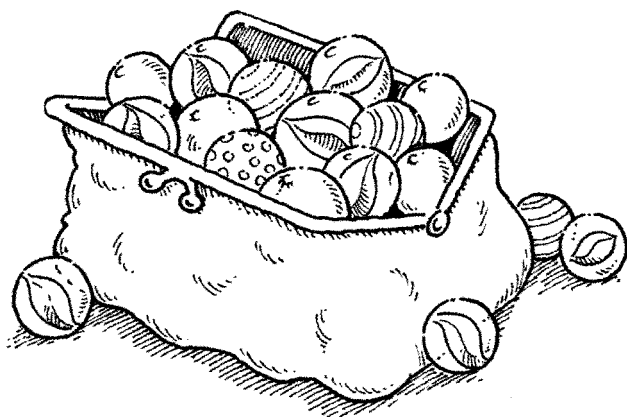
Pet Peeve

A pet peeve is a funny name for something other people do that you just don't like. For example, a pet peeve can be people talking with their mouths full. What is your pet peeve? Write about it.

94

Frog on the Log

On March 2, 1904, the children's book author Dr. Seuss was born. His real name is Theodore Geisel. He is famous for books such as *The Cat in the Hat*. Notice how the book's title rhymes "cat" and "hat." Now, pretend you're a children's book author. Think of a silly rhyming name for your book: The Frog on the Log or The Cow that Said "Wow!" Write a story that goes with your title.



95

"That Will Be 25 Marbles, Please."

What if instead of using money, you bought things with marbles. To buy a pack of chewing gum might cost 10 marbles. Perhaps a new car would cost 50,000 marbles. Bank robbers would try to get away with big bags full of marbles. When the police caught the robbers they might spill their marbles and people might trip on them and fall down. Imagine a world with marbles instead of money. Write a story about it.

96

Dear Suki...

Imagine you have a good friend in Japan. It can be a boy named Aki, or a girl named Suki. Think about how different America is from Japan. Your friend in Japan has learned to speak English and is very curious about America. Write an e-mail to your friend. Tell him or her all about America—customs, food, sports, houses. You might want to tell your friend a little about your life, too, such as how old you are or your favorite TV shows.

97

Favorite Color

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17. One St. Patrick's Day custom is for everyone to wear green. Do you like the color green? By any chance, is it your favorite color? Write about your favorite color and why you like it so much.

98

Ollie Opposite

Ollie wears shorts in the winter and a heavy coat in the summer. He sleeps during the day and stays awake at night. He shakes his head when he means "yes." One night at breakfast, Ollie was eating a glass of cereal and drinking a bowl of milk when all of a sudden _____. Finish the story.



Truly Tall Tale

Here's a kooky cast of characters:

- Tim, the 200-Foot-Tall Boy
- Lester, Super Lizard
- Rita, the Walking, Talking Refrigerator
- Henrietta, the Singing Hamburger

Write a story using one or all of these characters.



The Case of the Soaking Socks

Everyone loves to read a good mystery. It's one of the most enjoyable types of stories to write, too. First, you ask a puzzling question such as: Who ate the very last piece of my birthday cake? Then, you set up clues. Your little brother has crumbs on his chin. That's a good clue. He didn't eat dinner. Another clue. And so on. Aha! He must be the cake thief! Here's a mystery you can write about: Pretend you found a wet pair of socks you never wore lying in your clothes drawer. Who wore the socks? How did they get wet? Remember, set up clues. Now, write "The Case of the Soaking Socks."



Way to Go

What's your favorite way to travel? Do you like to ride in a car or on a bus? Or, would you rather fly in a plane or maybe even take a train? Write about which way you would most like to travel and why.



Animal Babies

Spring is a time when many baby animals are born. What's your favorite animal? No matter what it is, it had to start out as a baby. Baby dogs are called puppies. Baby ducks are called ducklings. Even big bears start out as babies. They're called cubs. Write a story about your favorite animal as a baby.



103

Off-Off-Off Broadway

Here's a cast of characters:

- Julie, the Singing Police Woman
- Bumpy, the Dancing Log
- Stinky, the Cranky Old Piece of Cheese
- Buck, the Invisible Race Car Driver
- Alamazoo, the Genius Duck

Now, write a play featuring some or all of these characters.

104

Is Spring Your Thing?

March 20 is the first day of spring. When people think of spring, they think of newness and freshness. It's a time when flowers grow and the air is cool and clean. Do you like spring best? Or, do you prefer summer, fall, or winter? Write about which season you like best.

105

King Cola

The first bottle of Coca-Cola™ was sold on March 30, 1886. It's the most popular soft drink ever. You've probably seen advertisements for Coca-Cola. Pretend there's a new cola called King Cola. What would the advertisements for this drink say? Here's an example: "Drink King Cola every day, you'll be cool in every way." Now, write your own King Cola ad.

April

106

April Fool's

April 1 is April Fool's Day. It's a day when people play funny tricks on one another. Here's one you can try on your teacher: Make up the craziest excuse you can think of for why you can't ever do homework again. Of course, you have to let your teacher know it's only a joke. At the end of your crazy excuse, write "April Fool's!"

107

My Favorite Book

International Children's Book Day falls on April 2. What is your favorite book of all time? Pretend you're writing a letter to a friend recommending that book. Describe what happens in the book, and why you like the book so much. The goal is to make your friend want to read it, too.

108

Happy Hundredth!

The 100th day of the year falls in April. One hundred is a big number. Would you like to have \$100? Would you like to have 100 pounds of liver? Make a list of five things you would like to have 100 of, and five things you wouldn't.

109

Weather Report

There's an old saying: "April showers bring May flowers." Has there been a lot of rain this April? Or, has it been dry? Do a weather report discussing the amount of April rainfall. Will there be flowers this May? A lot or a few? Why?



You've Got Game

Baseball season starts in April. Baseball is a very popular game. Like all games, it has its own set of rules. Think up your own imaginary game. It could be something like "broomball" or "skateboard hockey." Write down the rules of your own game.



Funny Phone

Think about a telephone call between any two people, real or imaginary. It could be a telephone call between the President and Spiderman. Or, Big Bird could call up your little sister. You can choose absolutely anyone. What would they say? Write down what each person would say, back and forth, back and forth, in this unusual telephone conversation.



Food Festival

Every year on April 18, the town of Alma, Arizona, holds a Spinach Festival. Does that sound like fun? Do you like spinach? Or, would you rather have a Pretzel Festival or a Banana Split Festival. Write about a food festival you would like to have in your city or town.



What's Your Sign?

There are signs everywhere: stop signs, signs in the windows of stores, big signs out on the highway. What if you had your own personal sign, posted at your desk? What information would you put on your sign? You could include your name, your age, some things you like to do, your favorite books, and all kinds of other information. Create your own personal sign.



Code Wu

Here's a secret code that you can write in. Before the first word in a sentence, always write "Wu." Also, every time you are supposed to use the letter "a" use "oo" instead. Here's a sample. The sentence "How are you?" would be changed to "Wuhow oore you?" Now, write a message in this secret code. You can even exchange it with a classmate and decode each other's messages.



Happy Earth Day!

April 22 is Earth Day. This is a day when we celebrate all the good stuff the earth provides: forests and mountains, air and water. It's also a day when we worry about things that can harm the earth, such as garbage and pollution. Write down five ways to make the earth a cleaner, better place to live.

116

Extra Quarter Back

Linda is at the store. She buys a pack of gum that costs 50 cents. She hands a \$1 bill to the store clerk. The clerk gives her back 75 cents. That means she was given an extra quarter in change. Write down what you think Linda should do?

117

Headline News for April 26

Have you noticed that every day there is a new newspaper? That's because every day there is news. There is even news on days that have no special holidays, like April 26. Maybe something interesting happened at your home today. For example, maybe your little brother got in trouble for spilling a glass of milk at breakfast. Or, the news can be something that happened in your town, the U.S., or somewhere else in the world. Think about something interesting that happened today, April 26, and write a news story about it.

118

My Room

Every kid's room is different. Some kids have lots of cool posters on the walls. Some kids have fish tanks in their rooms. Some kids share a room with a brother or sister. Think about your own particular room. Describe it in as much detail as possible.



119

Generous Genie

In fairy tales, genies usually grant three wishes. But you have just met a generous genie, one who will grant you 10 wishes. Maybe you would like a gazillion candy bars delivered to your home tomorrow. Maybe you have some wishes for the world, too, such as no kids anywhere ever being hungry. Now, Acka Shazam! Write down your 10 wishes.

120

April Apricot

April is the name of a month. But it's also a girl's name. Finish the following story about April Apricot. April Apricot was on her way home from school when she ran into June Juniper. June Juniper was pointing at something up in a tree. "Look up there," said June Juniper. April Apricot looked up and saw _____.

May

121

One Note Tale

May is a short name for a month. In fact, it is only one syllable long. Other words that are one-syllable long include: key, month, dog, run, take, and leg. (Words such as “super” and “teacher” have two syllables.) Write a story using as many one syllable words as possible.

122

In a Pickle

You are at a friend’s house for dinner. The meal includes a vegetable that you hate. Do you eat it anyway? Do you refuse to eat it? Do you sneak it to the dog under the table? Write about what you would do.

123

Rap of the Month Club

Imagine there is a rap group called King Calendar and DJ Days. Their record company has asked them to write an album with 12 rap songs, one for each month of the year. Here’s the beginning of their rap song about May:

“Yo, Yo, we love May
Heh, heh, heh.
May is cool
Don’t be a fool.”

Help out King Calendar and DJ Days.
Write some more rap lyrics about May.

124

Happy Mother’s Day

The second Sunday in May is Mother’s Day. Create a Mother’s Day greeting card.

125

Gumshoe

Imagine that a piece of gum gets stuck to the bottom of your shoe. Imagine all the places you might walk. Just think, the gum would go along with you to those places, too. Tell the story of the piece of gum and all the different places it travels.



126

Five Senses

We have five senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. Which sense do you enjoy using the most? Which sense do you think is the most important? Write about your favorite sense.

129

My Museum

May 18 is International Museum Day. What if you could run your own museum? Describe what types of things you would put on display.

127

Biography

May 16 is Biographer's Day. A biography is a story about the life of a person, usually someone famous. Write a brief biography about a famous person you admire.

130

Grocery List

Here's a grocery list:

- 2 extra, extra large containers of Burpee Cola
- 1 family-size frozen pizza with spinach and anchovies
- 12 eggs
- 1 big bag of Crunchy Pirate spicy corn chips
- 10 frozen microwavable chicken nuggets
- 1 jar of peanut butter
- 1 jar of grape jelly
- 1 loaf of bread
- 2 cans of cat food
- 1 box of fish food

Imagine the family that might purchase these things. Write a story about this family (and its pets) having dinner.

128

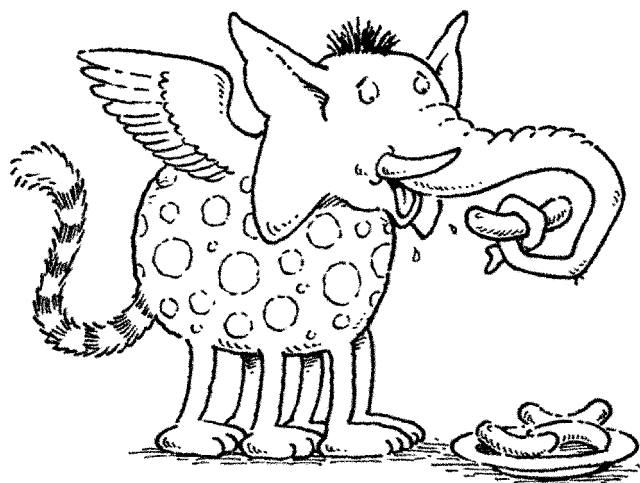
Time Flies

Have you ever heard the saying, "Time flies when you're having fun?" What do you think this means? Does time really move faster when you're doing something you enjoy? Does it move more slowly when you are bored? Write down your feelings about time.

131

Flying Feat

On May 20, 1929, Charles Lindbergh became the first person to fly an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean. What types of flying feats do you think will happen in the future? Will someone invent a plane so fast that it can travel from America to Japan in one hour? Will someone travel to Mars? Write about a flying adventure you think will happen during your lifetime.



132

Wild Thing

What's the weirdest imaginary animal you can think of? Maybe it has six skinny legs, a long pink trunk, and it eats sausage. Write about your imaginary animal in as much detail as possible. Where does it live? What sounds does it make? Is it friendly?

133

Hear, Hear!

May is National Hearing Month. Listen carefully for three minutes and then write down all the various sounds that you heard.

134

Weather Log

Do you notice the weather changing? Is it getting warmer? Create a weather log. Write down what the weather was like on each of the past three days. What was the temperature? Did it rain?

135

Sad in Seattle

Dear Abby is a famous advice columnist. People write to her when they have problems. Pretend you're an advice columnist. Somebody has written you the following letter:

(Date)

"Dear _____ (your name),

I have a rather large nose. Other kids always tease me and call me 'Pinocchio' and 'schnoz.' It hurts my feelings. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Sad in Seattle."

Now, send this person some good advice, starting off "Dear Sad in Seattle, _____.

June

136

Volunteer

The first week of June is International Volunteers Week. What's something you would like to volunteer for? Would you like to clean up litter from the park or collect canned food for people who are hungry? Write about a volunteer activity you would like to try.

137

June Poem

A whole bunch of words rhyme with June. There's "moon," "tune," "spoon," "balloon," and "baboon," just to name a few. June seems like a perfect month for a poem. Try writing a poem using the rhyming words above and others that you think of, too. Don't be afraid to get silly!

138

Garage Sale

Imagine that you've decided to have a garage sale. You are going to sell some old things that you don't need anymore. Maybe it's time to get rid of that shirt you've outgrown. What price would you ask for it? Make a list of 10 things you would sell at your garage sale. List the prices you would ask for them, too.

139

Changing Seasons

Isn't it interesting how the seasons change? First, there's cold in the winter, then rain in the spring. Now, it's probably getting warmer. Perhaps you've changed, too, during this school year. Write about the ways in which you have changed.

140

You've Got Mail, Mate

Australia is very different from the U.S. Pretend you have a good friend who lives in Australia, either a boy named Michael or a girl named Maggie. What are some questions you'd like to ask about Australia? Do you want to know what people in Australia eat for breakfast? How about kangaroos? Has your friend ever seen one? Think of some questions and write an e-mail to Maggie or Michael.

141

Flappy Flag Day!

June 14 is Flag Day. What if you created your own flag? What colors would you use? What symbols or animals or shapes would you put on your flag? What would your flag stand for: power, freedom, courage?

142

Secret Hiding Place

Do you have a secret hiding place? Maybe it's behind some bushes or down in your basement under an old table. Think about a good secret hiding place and describe it as completely as you can.

143

The Riddler

Riddles are tricky questions that tease your brain. Here's one: What has teeth but cannot eat? Answer: a comb. Now, think up your own riddle and write it down. Trade yours with a friend.



144

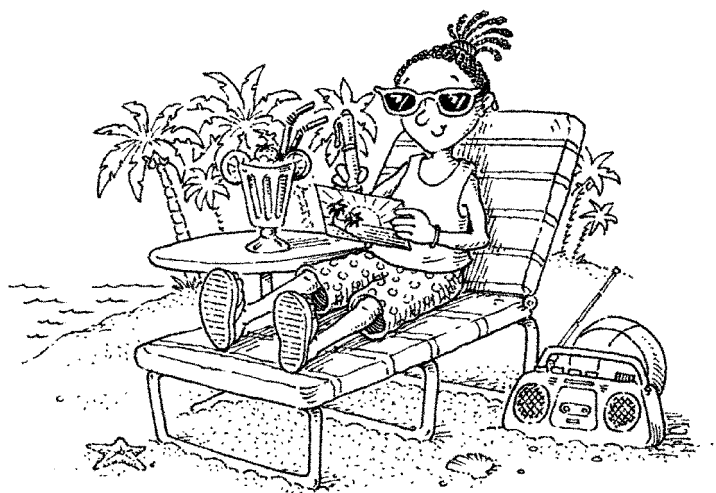
Cloud Story

The cool thing about clouds is that they are always changing. If you look at them carefully, you can see all sorts of wild stuff. Clouds can look like people's faces or dragons or giant bugs. Here's a good exercise for a cloudy day. Look out the window for three minutes. Write a story using the different things you see in the clouds.

145

What I Will Do This Summer

Summer's here. It starts on June 21. Sometimes kids are asked to write a story in the fall called, "What I Did Last Summer." Instead, write one looking into the future. Call it, "What I Will Do This Summer." Have fun.



146

Happy Father's Day

The third Sunday in June is Father's Day. Create a Father's Day greeting card.

147

Camping Goods

Do you like to go camping? If you went on a camping trip, you'd need a tent, of course. But what are some other things you would take along? Make a list.

148

Dream Vacation

Summer is a time to take vacations. But what if you could travel anywhere in the world? Where would you go? Would you travel to a tropical island, China, the North Pole? Pick a faraway place. Then, write about what it would be like to visit that place.

149

Vacation Postcard

Now, pretend you're on your dream vacation. Write a postcard to a friend telling him or her all about your trip.

150

Most Likely to Fall Asleep in Class

The end of the school year is a good time for an awards ceremony. Pretend you are the host of The _____ (school year) Classroom Awards Extravaganza. Think up as many different awards as you can: Best-Dressed Kid, Most Studious Kid, Most Likely to Fall Asleep in Class, and so on.

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